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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

August 5, 2005  
Date of Deposit

Cynthia B. Pacheco  
Cynthia B. Pacheco

PATENT  
895675-7

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ANUJA NAIR ET AL.

Serial No.: 10/647,971

Filed: August 25, 2003

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD OF  
CHARACTERIZING VASCULAR TISSUE

Art Unit: 3737

Examiner: Francis J. Jaworski

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Office Action dated June 10, 2005, the Examiner has required restriction of the application to one of the following groups of inventions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121: (a) Group I, including Claims 1-12 and 46-48, drawn to IVUS-based vascular characterization methods using histology data; (b) Group II, including Claims 13-21, drawn to IVUS-based vascular characterization apparatuses using database parameter sets; and (c) Group III, including Claims 22-45, drawn to methods and apparatuses for characterizing vascular tissue including histologic image formation. In response, Applicants elects with traverse **Group III**. An examination on the merits of the elected claims (i.e., **Claims 22-45**) is respectfully requested. The Applicants reserve the right to

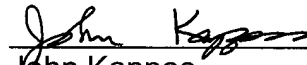
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the right to prosecute the non-elected claims (i.e., Claims 1-22 and 46-49) in a divisional and/or continuation application(s).

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a one-month extension of time, extending to August 10, 2005, the period for response to the Office Action dated June 10, 2005. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 5, 2005

  
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